



Teen Conservation Club

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Chattanooga Zoo Mission

The mission of the Chattanooga Zoo is to engage, educate and inspire our community to better understand and conserve wildlife by creating meaningful connections between people and animals. With our intimate, innovative exhibits, wide-ranging educational offerings and commitment to conservation, our vision is to be a premier destination for all guests and the pride of our community.

A Teen Conservation Club directly supports the mission of the Chattanooga Zoo by transforming education into action. Through hands-on conservation projects in our local community, teens move beyond learning about wildlife to actively protecting it—strengthening their understanding of environmental stewardship while building meaningful, lasting connections to animals and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Qualifications

The Teen Conservation Club is designed for motivated middle and high school students who are passionate about wildlife, environmental stewardship, and making a meaningful impact in their community. While prior experience with animals or conservation is not required, applicants should demonstrate a genuine interest in learning and growing in these areas.

We are seeking students who show:

- A sincere commitment to conservation and community service
- A willingness to step outside their comfort zone and take on new challenges
- Responsibility, reliability, and a strong work ethic
- The maturity to represent the Zoo positively in public settings

Because this is a merit-based and project-focused program, participants will be selected through a competitive application process.

To Become a Teen Conservation Club Participant

- Submit a completed application by the stated deadline
- Participate in the selection process (application review and/or interview if applicable)
- Be accepted into the program
- Pay fees associated with the program
- Attend all meetings and scheduled conservation projects
- Commit to full-semester participation

- Work at least 6 volunteer hours at the zoo during the semester
- Agree to and follow all Zoo policies and behavioral expectations
- Submit required waivers and media release forms

Requirements

The Teen Conservation Club at the **Chattanooga Zoo** is a semester-based program offered twice each school year: August through December (Fall Semester) and January through May (Spring Semester). Each session is designed to provide students with meaningful, hands-on conservation experiences and learning opportunities that deepen their understanding of wildlife, environmental issues, and the Zoo's role in conservation. In return, participants are asked to make a sincere commitment to the program. The success of Teen Conservation Club depends on each member's reliability, active participation, and dedication to completing projects and representing the Zoo with professionalism and pride.

Orientation

- Orientation is required for all clubbers. This will happen during the first meet up.

Volunteer Hours

- A minimum of 6 volunteer hours is required for program completion.
- Hours can be split between any of the following opportunities.
 - Special Events
 - Education Carts
 - Petting Zoo Attendant

Fees

- A \$135 fee will be required for non- zoo members and \$120 for current zoo members.
- The Zoo is a nonprofit organization; all funds received from clubbers help support our programs.

Guidelines

Teen Conservation Participants agree to:

- Wear their official name tag, club shirt, and khaki pants when on or off zoo grounds during official meetings, unless otherwise noted.
- Abide by all Zoo rules and policies.
- Arrive on time for meetings and email if an emergency prevents you from attending a meeting.
- Be considerate and cooperative when dealing with other clubbers and staff.
- Maintain the confidentiality of privileged information pertaining to all areas of the Zoo.
- Follow all animal care, animal welfare, enrichment, and Zoo safety protocols.

Benefits

There are numerous benefits to the Teen Conservation Program. Many students are able to use their experience to meet community service requirements for the Tennessee Promise Scholarships. Students may also receive credit for their volunteer hours from their school. Making new friends, earning potential employment references, gaining work experience, and feeling a sense of accomplishment are just a few reasons to be a Teen Conservation Clubber.